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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /085 W
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R 110808Z FEB 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1727
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHEAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, PLO
SUBJECT: BAATH PARTY MAGAZINE ARTICLE URGES PLO TO DEFINE ITS POSITIONS TOWARD ASSOCIATION WITH JORDAN AND OTHER "CONFRONTATION STATES"

1. RECENT ISSUE OF OFFICIAL SYRIAN BAATH PARTY MAGAZINE "AL-MUNAADIL" (THE STRUGGLER) WHICH WAS REPRINTED I PARTY DAILY NEWSPAPER ADDRESSED ITSELF TO NEED FOR PLO TO USE FORTHCOMING PALESTINE NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) TO PUT ITS HOUSE IN ORDER. WRITTEN BEFORE PLO DECIDED ON COMPOSITION AND DATE FOR CONVENING CONFERENCE, ARTICLE WAS VERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CRITICAL OF JOCKEYING FOR POWER AMONG RIVAL FEDAYEEN GROUPS AT TIME WHEN PLO EXCOMM AND OTHER EXECUTIVE BODIES WITHIN ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE PREPARING REPORTS AND STUDIES FOR PNC TO DEBATE IN DECIDING FUTURE PLO PLANS AND STRATEGY. ARTICLE FURTHER CRITICIZED PLO PRACTICE OF BURYING DIFFERENCES AT PNC AND ISSUING RESOLUTIONS AFFIRMING GENERALITIES IN ORDER TO AVOID DIVISIVENESS.

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2. ARTICLE CLAIMED TIME PAST FOR SUCH TACTICS BECAUSE PALESTINIANS PASSING THROUGH CRITICAL STAGE WHICH COULD UNDERMINE ROLE OF PLO AS SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, RIGHT OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, AND PLO REQUIREMENT TO MEET CHALLENGES CONFRONTING IT.

3. IN SOMEWHAT VAGUE TERMS, ARTICLE SEEMED TO CALL FOR PNC TO ACCOMPLISH THREE TASKS: A) REVIEWING EXISTING NATIONAL CHARTER WITH VIEW TOWARDS INSURING PRESENT MAINSTREAM THINKING WITHIN PLO AND CHARTER IN HARMONY; B) ACHIEVING UNITY AMONT VARIOUS PALESTINIAN BODIES WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF PLO AND INSURING THAT COMPATIBILITY EXISTS BETWEEN POLICIES THESE BODIES AND PALESTINIANS LIVING WITHIN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; AND C) CRITICIZING THE ACTIONS OF THE "REVOLUTION."

4. SIGNIFICANTLY, ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT IN ADDITION TO THE DECISION ALREADY ADOPTED BY PREVIOUS PNC SESSION TO SET UP AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY OVER ANY PART OF THE PALESTINIAN LAND "LIBERATED," THE PLO HAD TO DEFINE ITS POSITION TOWARDS THREE PLANS:

A) A PALESTINIAN ENTITY FEDERALLY LINKED TO JORDAN.

B) A PALESTINIAN ENTITY ATTACHED TO JORDAN.

C) A PALESTINIAN ENTITY CONFEDERALLY LINKED TO THE
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CONFRONTATION STATES.

5. COMMENT: SINCE THIS ARTICLE APPEARED, PLO PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MANAGED TO REACH FORMULA FOR COMPOSITION OF 13TH PNC AND TO SET DATE FOR CONFERENCE (MARCH 22). THIS PROGRESS WAS SEEMINGLY APPLAUDED IN AL-BAATH EDITORIAL APPEARING FEB 9 AND SAME EDITORIAL SEEMED TO ENDORSE NON-DIVISIVE RESOLUTIONS WHICH AL-MUNAADIL SO STRENUOUSLY CRITICIZED. HOWEVER, NOTHING HAS SINCE APPEARED, OF WHICH WE AWARE, THAT BACKS-OFF FROM CALL THAT PLO DEFINE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD SOME TYPE OF LINKS WITH JORDAN AND OTHER ARAB STATES. SIGNIFICANTLY, ALTERNATIVE OF COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE WAS NOT RPT NOT CONTAINED IN ARTICLE. FACT THAT ARTICLE WAS REPRINTED FROM INTERNAL BAATH PARTY MAGAZINE TO DAILY NEWSPAPER AL-BAATH INDICATES DECISION TO GIVE IT WIDE CIRCULATION. IT SHOULD BE SEEN, THEREFORE, AS CONTINUATION OF SYRIAN PRESSURE ON PALESTINIANS TO CONFORM THEIR POLICIES TO CURRENT ARAB PEACE CAMPAIGN. TENOR OF CURRENT MEDIA COMMENTARY INDICATES

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SARG PLEASED THAT PLO-JORDANIAN STEPS TOWARD RECONCILIATION
UNDERWAY. IT SEEMS CLEAR IF SARG HOPING THAT THIS DIALOGUE
WILL LEAD TO BOTH SIDES DEFINING PROSPECTIVE CLOSER ASSOCIA-
TION IN EVENT PEACE EFFORTS PROVE SUCCESSFUL.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3346201
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BAATH PARTY MAGAZINE ARTICLE URGES PLO TO DEFINE ITS POSITIONS TOWARD ASSOCIATION WITH JORDAN AND OTHER \"CONFRONTATION STATES\"
TAGS: PFOR, SY, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a8f9f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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